

## **DOWN THE HATCH**

a comedy sketch idea by Jonathan David Steinhoff

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(PENNY FOYER, a lab scientist in her lab coat and laboratory, is perpetually mixing things, putting beakers on burners, etc. in an extremely harried, brisk manner.)

PENNY:

(talking into a cell phone) Well, that really sounds awful, Cindy, but I really do have to go. I, no really, I have something I'm doing that is super import-, will you please listen? I have to go, no, I have to, goodbye, I'll talk to you later. (PENNY hangs up her cell phone.) Now was the blue stuff supposed to turn red after three minutes at 200 degrees, or no, four minutes. Or...

(In walks STEVEN WILSON, wearing glasses and a lab coat.)

STEVEN:

Well, look who's still busy as a bee.

PENNY:

Oh Steven, if you knew what happened.

STEVEN:

Now Penny, you tell Steven all about it.

PENNY:

I was trying to mix just a little of that, you know that perfume, for myself, "Tigress VI" or something....

STEVEN:

Tigress X, you mean. They've been improving that one practically on a monthly basis.

PENNY:

Tigress X, whatever. So then the phone rings, and it's Marvin, and you know, he starts telling me about his date with Mary, and I start yelling at him because , anyway, so I mixed Tigress VI all wrong, and....

STEVEN

Tigress X.

PENNY:

Well, it's not Tigress VI or Tigress X, and I, see, I put some on before I even knew I had mixed it wrong. So look.

(PENNY rolls up her sleeve and shows STEVEN an eyeball in her elbow.)

STEVEN:

Wow, that's pretty good, an eyeball in your elbow. I'd like to try some of that.

PENNY:

It's not funny, that's just one of the things it did. Every few minutes it's something else. I shouldn't even be stopping to explain this to you, I've been trying to find a way to reverse it, but so far....

STEVEN:

Show me some of the other stuff it did.

PENNY:

No Steven, Steve, I really can't stop what I'm doing, I....

STEVEN:

Oh PLEASE, Penny?

PENNY:

Oh, alright! Fine! Look! (PENNY, her back to the audience, opens up her blouse to STEVEN.)

STEVEN:

Oh my God! I'm glad I didn't eat yet! Ughh! (PENNY closes up her blouse and resumes running around the lab mixing things and such.) In fact, that's why I came by. I thought if you were still here you might want to go grab a bite with me.

PENNY:

Oh Steven, I would love to, but I can't. I really have to find a way to, to come up with an antidote. Or at least a way to reverse SOME of these things.

STEVEN:

Like what else?

PENNY:

No Steven, I'm sorry, that's it, I haven't time. (Cell phone rings.) Oh God, there's my cell phone again. Yes, hello? Well, I'm sorry if I sound that way, but I'm really busy right now. In fact Gregor, this isn't a very good time....

STEVEN:

Would you look at that!

PENNY:

Hold on a minute. Look at what? What happened?

STEVEN:

Your neck! A sharp little, uh, reddish thing is sticking out.

(PENNY picks up a mirror.) Oh, that looks terrible! Okay, Gregor, sorry, I really have to go. No, I, you're kidding me, she did? And she told me, well, anyway, no, I really do have to go. I'll call you later. I'll explain it to you later. Gregor! No, stop. I'll call you later. (PENNY hangs up the cell phone, and looks at herself more closely in the mirror.) Boy, that thing's really something.

STEVEN:  
I'll say. You really did a number on yourself this time.

PENNY:  
Stupid perfume.

STEVEN:  
Say! What is - I mean, who is that? Va-va-va-voom!

PENNY:  
What are you talking about?

(PENNY has grown another head.)

STEVEN:  
Hey baby, what's your name?

PENNY II:  
Penny II. What's yours?

PENNY:  
What's going on here? Oh no, I've grown another head!

STEVEN:  
Not too bad looking either.

PENNY:  
Steven! I've grown another head!

STEVEN:  
Yeah, I can see why, uh, that would upset you. But she's really hot, Penny! Don't you think?

PENNY:  
Maybe if I mix some of this trichlorate with this Ecstasithian-30 and heat it to 450 degrees.

PENNY II:  
You're handsome.

PENNY:  
And then cool it to 300 degrees for two minutes....

PENNY II:  
What about 350 degrees? (PENNY looks hard at PENNY II. PENNY II suddenly smiles.) Ha-ha-ha! She believed me! As if I know anything about this stuff!

STEVEN:  
She really had you going! (STEVEN leans out of the lab and shouts down the hall.) Hey, Alice, you really oughta see what's going on in here!

PENNY:

Okay Steven, you win. I'm not going to get anything done with everybody interrupting me. Where did you say you wanted to eat?

STEVEN:

Look at your foot, it shrunk down to the size of a, a walnut!

PENNY:

It what? (Looking)

STEVEN:

Just kidding!

PENNY II:

Ha-ha-ha. Oh, Steve!

PENNY:

Now you two cut that out. (As all three exit) I was thinking of the coffee shop....

STEVEN:

Fine with me.

PENNY II:

I've never been there before, but if you two like it....

**THE END**